

## Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-06

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INFO AMEMBASSY TAIPEI  
AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 061748

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EEWT PINT PDIP SCUL ETRD OREP US CH

SUBJECT: EA/PRCM WEEKLY STATUS REPORT

### 1. WORK GLOVE IMPORTS FROM THE PRC (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE)

THE INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION (ITC) ON MARCH 7 VOTED 4-2 THAT IMPORTS OF COTTON WORK GLOVES FROM CHINA ARE NOT DISRUPTING THE US MARKET. ON MARCH 15, THE ITC IS EXPECTED TO SEND ITS REPORT RECOMMENDING TO THE PRESIDENT AGAINST THE IMPOSITION OF RESTRICTIONS ON IMPORTS OF THESE PRODUCTS FROM THE PRC. (CONGRESSIONAL SUPPORT WOULD BE REQUIRED FOR ANY PRESIDENTIAL DECISION REJECTING OR OVERRULING THE ITC RECOMMENDATION.) THE FAILURE OF THE WORK GLOVE MANUFACT-  
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URERS ASSOCIATION TO WIN ITS BID FOR RESTRICTIONS ON WORK GLOVE IMPORYS FROM THE PRC MAY DETER OTHER US MANUFACTURERS OF LESS "SENSITIVE" PRODUCTS FROM CONSIDERING A SIMILAR COURSE OF ACTION IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

### 2. BRIEFINGS ON THE NPC (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE)

THUS FAR, WE HAVE BRIEFED ROK, JAPANESE, NORWEGIAN, GREEK, DUTCH, AND ITALIAN DIPLOMATS ON THE OUTCOME OF THE NPC. WE HAVE ALSO PROVIDED BACKGROUND INFORMATION TO LOCAL JOURNALISTS. WE ANTICIPATE THAT WE WILL HAVE MORE.

3. PRC MILITARY ATTACHES EXPAND CONTACTS WITH US COUNTERPARTS (CONFIDENTIAL)

RECENT REPORTS FROM THREE SEPARATE CAPITALS SUGGEST THAT THE PRC MAY HAVE RELAXED ITS GROUND RULES FOR CONTACTS WITH US MILITARY ATTACHES. IN A SERIES OF FIRSTS OVER THE LAST FEW WEEKS, THE PRC MILITARY ATTACHE IN RANGOON INVITED HIS US COUNTERPART TO A DINNER, THE PRC ATTACHE IN BELGRADE PAID A RETURN CALL ON THE US ATTACHE AT THE US EMBASSY, AND THE CHINESE ATTACHE IN LONDON, WHO SAID THE MEETING WAS "MAKING HISTORY," MET INFORMALLY WITH HIS US COUNTERPART FOR LUNCH. THE LATTER PRC OFFICIAL CLAIMED THERE HAD BEEN NO CHANGE IN POLICY BUT THAT DECISIONS ON SUCH CONTACTS WOULD NOW BE MADE ON A CASE-BY-CASE BASIS. NEVERTHELESS, THE ACCEPTANCE (AND EXTENSION) OF SUCH SOCIAL INVITATIONS IS A MARKED DEPARTURE FROM PREVIOUS PRC PRACTICE, IN WHICH SUCH CONTACTS WERE NORMALLY RESTRICTED TO CONVERSATIONS AT RECEPTIONS OR AT FUNCTIONS HOSTED BY OTHER PARTIES. DIA HAS ALERTED ALL OF ITS ATTACHES TO THESE DEVELOPMENTS. THUS FAR, WE HAVE NO INDICATION THAT PRC GUIDELINES FOR CONTACTS WITH US CIVILIAN DIPLOMATS

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HAVE BEEN SIMILARLY LOOSENEED.

4. CSC MEETING ON FUTURE STUDENT EXCHANGE WITH PRC (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE)

PRCM AND CU/EA WERE REPRESENTED AT THE CSC-SPONSORED MEETING ON FUTURE STUDENT EXCHANGES WITH THE PRC MARCH 6. CSC RECOGNIZES THE OBSTACLES TO SUCH EXCHANGES PRIOR TO FULL NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS AND IS AWARE THAT THE USG HAS NOT YET DETERMINED HOW--OR THROUGH WHAT ORGANIZATION--SUCH EXCHANGES SHOULD BE ADMINISTERED. NEVERTHELESS, CSC HOPES TO BE THE ADMINISTRATING BODY AND IS SEEKING TO ACCOMPLISH BASIC PLANNING ON STUDENT EXCHANGES AS A MEANS OF DEMONSTRATING ITS INTEREST AND CAPABILITY. THE SOLE ACCOMPLISHMENT OF THE MEETING WAS THE PROMISE OF A PAPER TO BE DISTRIBUTED AMONG THE PARTICIPANTS IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

5. TOURISTS FLOOD PRC ACCOMMODATIONS (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE)

PRCLO HAS NOTIFIED US THAT VISAS HAVE BEEN APPROVED FOR TWO USG OFFICIALS WHO HAD HOPED TO TRAVEL TO THE PRC IN LATE

MARCH BUT PRCLO ASKED THAT THEY NOT ENTER THE PRC UNTIL APRIL. WHEN PRESSED, PRCLO INDICATED THAT OVERCROWDED ACCOMMODATIONS IN CHINA CAUSED THEIR REQUEST. THE METROPOLITAN OPERA-NATIONAL COMMITTEE GROUP PLANNING TO BE

IN PEKING IN LATE MARCH TO DISCUSS ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE UPCOMING PRC PERFORMING ARTS DELEGATION VISIT TO THE US WAS ALSO ASKED TO DELAY ITS TRAVEL UNTIL APRIL. ACCOMMODATIONS MAY WELL BE TIGHT AS WE HAVE HEARD OF A LARGE NUMBER OF AMERICANS TRAVELING TO THE PRC IN THE NEXT FEW WEEKS. THIS IS IN KEEPING WITH INDICATIONS THAT THERE WILL BE A SHARP INCREASE IN AMERICAN TOURISM TO CHINA IN 1978 (PERHAPS RISING TO AS MUCH AS FIVE OR SIX TIMES THE 1977 FIGURE OF APPROXIMATELY 2,000).  
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6. STATUS OF THE MARCH CODEL (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE)

IT NOW APPEARS THAT CONGRESSMAN REUSS (D-WISCONSIN) WILL HEAD THE MARCH CODEL TO THE PRC. CONGRESSMAN FOLEY HAS DECIDED NOT TO GO AND THE WHITE HOUSE IS SEEKING TO ADD THREE MORE MEMBERS OF CONGRESS, BRINGING THE TOTAL TO EIGHT.

7. NCUSCT (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE)

WE AND BILL CLARKE OF COMMERCE HAD A LONG SESSION TUESDAY WITH CHRIS PHILLIPS AND TWO OF HIS PRINCIPAL NATIONAL COUNCIL ASSOCIATES TO REVIEW THE USG-COUNCIL RELATIONSHIP AND TO GET A FEEL FOR THE COUNCIL'S VIEW OF ITS FUTURE. IT WAS A USEFUL MEETING, BUT CONFIRMED THAT THE COUNCIL HAS SERIOUS PROBLEMS OF FINANCING AND STAFFING.  
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